

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Austrian Application No. A458/2004 filed March 15, 2004. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/AT2005/000068 filed March 4, 2005. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Page 2, after line 6, add the following new paragraph:

--Patent specification US 4,465,174 A discloses a system for conveying a container between a horizontal container storage section (20) with two storage tracks (20a, 20b) and a container tray (18) which can be displaced in the vertical direction. The container tray is mounted on a vertical guide track (12) by means of guide elements (10a) and is coupled with a lifting drive (M) and forms a depositing area for a container. Disposed between the container storage section and the guide track is a conveyor section, comprising two conveyor tracks (22a, 22b). The latter are articulately mounted on a stationary pin (25a, 25b) at their one end and with a threaded screw (30a, 30b) at their second end. The threaded screws are driven by a common motor,

which is mounted on a horizontal guide rail (34). The guide rail (34) can be raised and lowered to a limited degree by means of an elevating mechanism (38) thereby enabling the inclination of the conveyor tracks to be varied so that they either rise or fall in the direction of the ends facing the storage tracks. The conveyor racks are respectively fitted with several conveyor rollers (R) disposed one after the other in a row and are mounted on the guide track so that they can be displaced by means of the threaded screws in a counter-rotating arrangement between a conveying position moved towards one another and a side position moved apart from one another. At its oppositely lying side walls, the container is provided with flanges (24a, 24b) projecting out from the top edges, which support the container on the conveyor tracks as they are being conveyed.--

Page 2, line 2 from below, to page 3, line 1, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The embodiment defined in claim 2 38 is also of advantage because the overall construction of the shelf-stacking device is made simpler due to the construction of the lifting frame of the holding table proposed by the invention.--

Page 3, lines 2-7, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The embodiment defined in claim 3 38 offers an optimal compromise between the load bearing capacity of the lifting frame and flexibility in manipulating storage aids of differing external dimensions. When the holding table is in the lowered transfer or handover position, the mutually separate orifices of the telescopic pushing arms are held but the telescopic pushing arms can still be displaced transversely to their longitudinal extension without colliding with the holding table.--

Page 3, lines 8 and 9, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The telescopic pushing arms are exactly guided as a result of the embodiment defined in claim 4 40.--

Page 3, lines 10-24, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The objective of the invention is also achieved on the basis of the features defined in the characterizing part of claim 5 41. The advantage of this approach is that the intrinsic weight of the lifting platform is reduced, which relieves the load of at least one guide track on the mast and the guide members on the lifting platform, whilst reducing the structural height of the lifting platform. This results in particularly conducive conveying properties, such as high start-up accelerations and travel speeds of the lifting platform and a high load-bearing capacity. The combination of the two inventions, namely the

mutual displacement of the telescopic pushing arms transversely to the longitudinal extension, on the one hand, and the improved conveying properties of the lifting platform on the other hand, results in a shelf-stacking device which is distinctive due to its high flexibility, particularly due to the fact that it can be adapted to operate under very varied conditions. This conveyor system and in particular this shelf-stacking device is especially suitable for use in warehouses handling small components, in which active loads of up to approximately 50 kg are conveyed and the bottom and top approach distance to the shelf compartments in the vertical direction must be maintained.--

Page 3, second paragraph from bottom of page, amend this paragraph as follows:

--Advantageous designs of the drive means and the driver and their embodiments are described in claims ~~6 to 9~~ 42 to 45.--

Page 3, last paragraph, amend this paragraph as follows:

--Also of advantage is the embodiment defined in claim ~~10~~ 46 with the simple transmission of the driving force to the holding table.--

Page 4, first paragraph, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The advantage of the embodiment defined in claim ~~11~~ 47 is that neither the lifting platform nor the holding table have to bear the weight of the drive motor of the second lifting drive, which in turn has a positive effect on the conveying properties of the lifting platform and holding table mentioned above. Moreover, installation of the lifting platform and holding table is made simpler.--

Page 4, after line 5, add the following new paragraph:

--An advantageous layout and design of the sensors are described in claim 48.--

Page 4, second paragraph, please delete this paragraph:

~~--As a result of the embodiment defined in claim 12, the maximum travel path of the holding table is limited and the risk of collision with the lifting platform or damage to the second lifting drive is effectively avoided. --~~

Page 4, paragraph 3, amend this paragraph as follows:

-Claim ~~13~~ 49 describes an advantageous embodiment of the second lifting device.--

Page 4, paragraph 4, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The different control options defined in claims ~~14 and 15~~ 50 and 51 enable a positioned movement of the holding table

relative to the lifting platform on the one hand, whilst on the other hand, the holding table and lifting platform can be moved synchronously at a fixed distance with respect to one another (corresponding to the travel path) into a desired position pre-defined by the computer system as the conveyor system, in particular the shelf-stacking device is being moved along the shelf aisle. However, in order to make the shelf-stacking device even more efficient in terms of the cycle times needed to deposit and retrieve storage aids, both the holding table and the lifting platform can be displaced relative to one another as the conveyor system is being moved.--

Page 4, paragraph 5, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The improved embodiments defined in claims ~~16 to 18~~ 52 to 54 are of advantage because the holding table and optionally also the lifting platform can be maintained in their corresponding positions and can be so as the conveyor system, in particular the shelf-stacking device, is being moved along the shelf aisle, so that the storage aids are reliably supported by the lifting platform on the one hand and by the holding table on the other hand.--

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 as follows:

--As a result of the preferred embodiments defined in claims ~~19 and 20~~ 55 and 56, an additional traction drive is not needed

as a second lifting drive. For the purpose of the invention, the traction means of the first lifting drive for the lifting platform can be fitted around a second drive gear of the so-called Omega drive and the holding table can be vertically displaced by the driven, second drive gear along the strand of the traction means pulled between the lifting platform and the first guide pulley mounted at the mast head. Since the drive motor of the second lifting drive is disposed separately from the lifting platform, the intrinsic weight of the lifting platform is reduced. This also reduces the cost of producing the lifting platform.--

Page 5, first full paragraph, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The embodiment defined in claim ~~21~~ 57 is also of advantage because exclusively the third drive and guide pulleys of the second lifting drive are disposed on the holding table and the endlessly circulating traction means of an auxiliary drive are guided around the third drive and guide pulleys, which means that no additional supports for tensioning means, mounting elements for tension means and such like have to be provided on the holding table. The auxiliary drive is offset to the side, adjacent to the first lifting drive on the mast. This free space adjacent to the first lifting drive is available anyway, which means that the shelf-stacking device does not have to be made

wider. This results in a particularly compact arrangement in the vertical direction and an approach distance in the vertical direction can be kept short enabling the uppermost shelf positions of a shelf compartment to be approached without difficulty.--

Page 5, line 18, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The advantage of claim 23 59 is that the linear guide for the holding table is disposed separately from the load-bearing means, thereby reducing the intrinsic weight of the lifting platform. Another advantage is the fact that the linear guide on the mast is used both for the lifting platform and for the holding table, which significantly simplifies the overall construction as a result.--

Page 5, lines 21 to 25, delete these two paragraphs:

~~--Another embodiment of the invention is defined in claim 24. The advantage of this approach is that the at least one guide track on the mast for the lifting platform simultaneously serves as a linear guide for the holding table which significantly simplifies the overall construction as a result.--~~

~~--One possible embodiment of the lifting frame of the holding table is defined in claim 25. --~~

Page 5, after line 25, add the following new paragraph:

--Another possible embodiment of the lifting frame of the holding table is defined in claim 60. --

Page 5, line 2 from below, to page 6, line 10, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The advantage of the embodiments defined in claims ~~25 to 30~~ 61 to 65 is that they result in a lightweight construction, thereby reducing the dynamic stress to which the mast is undesirably exposed. A particularly dimensionally stable design of the holding table is described in claim ~~27~~ 63. The design of the holding table defined in claim ~~28~~ 64 is also of advantage because it enables different length variations of the traction means of the first lifting and auxiliary drive and optionally enables the associated inaccurate positioning of the holding table with respect to the lifting platform to be compensated. The lifting grill may be separated from the lifting frame in the transfer or handover position. This being the case, the lifting grill is supported on the lifting platform, whilst the lifting frame can be moved down even further away from the lifting platform if necessary. When the holding table is raised into the conveying position, the lifting grill is in turn lifted off the lifting platform and the coupling parts engaged.--

Page 6, lines 11 and 12, amend this paragraph as follows:

--The embodiments defined in claims ~~31 and 32~~ 67 and 68 are

also of advantage due to the fact that they are of a simple construction and inexpensive to produce.--

Page 6, lines 13 to 20, amend this paragraph as follows:

--As defined in claims ~~33 and 34~~ 69 and 70, the support bars of the lifting grill can be moved unhindered down into the spaces between the support surfaces of the support frame or the endless conveyors. The design defined in claim ~~34~~ 70 is of particular advantage because, at a storage or retrieval point in the upstream zone, the storage aids deposited on the lifting platform can be discharged by means of the longitudinal conveyor system to a discharge system disposed downstream of it in the conveying direction, in particular a driven conveyor system, without having to extract the telescopic pushing arms. Furthermore, storage aids of small external dimensions (length/width) can also be reliably conveyed. --

Page 6, lines 21 and 22, delete this paragraph:

~~--Also of advantage is the embodiment defined in claim 35, whereby the conveyor system can be adapted to specific applications. --~~

Page 6, the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7, amend this paragraph as follows:

--Finally, as defined in claim ~~36~~ 70, a significant saving on cycle time can be achieved when discharging and picking up storage aids at a storage and retrieval point in the upstream zone at the end of the shelf aisle. To this end, the lifting platform is retained in a desired position pre-defined by a computer system and the holding table is retained at a fixed distance relative to the lifting platform (corresponding to the travel path) and the first storage aid deposited or to be deposited on the holding table can be manipulated by means of a filling and pick-up system in the upstream zone, in particular a ram, and the second storage aid deposited or to be deposited on the lifting platform can be manipulated simultaneously by means of the load bearing mechanism, in particular can be lifted off the lifting platform or off the holding table or pushed onto the lifting platform or holding table.--